



It's the summer of 1969 and young Willie's life revolves around the idyllic old pearling port Broome, northern Western Australia – fishing, hanging out with his mates and, when he can, his girl Rosie. However, his mother Theresa has great hopes for him and sends him back to the religious mission in Perth for further schooling. After being punished by Father Benedictus for an act of youthful rebellion, Willie runs away from the mission. But to where – he's too ashamed to go home, it will break his mother's heart. Down on his luck, he meets an old fella whom he calls 'Uncle' Tadpole, and together they on a couple of hippies, Annie and Slippery, into taking them on the 2500 km journey back to Broome. Willie learns the hard and funny lessons he needs to get home, all the while pursued by Father Benedictus. Arriving back in Broome, Willie wins the girl, convinces his mother that Broome is the place he should be and discovers that the father he never knew he had is his companion all along – Uncle Tadpole.

1. What are some of the issues that Indigenous people face in Australia?
2. Why do you think the film is titled 'Bran Nue Dae'? Why do you think the title is spelt in this way? Think of at least two alternative titles and then write a short explanation of why you think they might be appropriate.
3. Have you ever felt homesick? Describe the feeling. What is homesickness and what causes it? Is it merely a state of mind? Is it a deeper connection to a specific environment and to the land?
4. Write a personal piece in 100 words about the concept of home, either a place that you call home or where you feel you belong.
5. Write a short story about a character returning home. Why is that character returning home? Do we, as readers, need an explanation, or could it be left as a mystery? Does the character want to return home or not? What will he/she find on arrival?